

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a protective mouth guard to more precisely fit and provide increased cushioning against a person's teeth, comprising:
providing a protective mouth guard that is substantially U-shaped or L-shaped
configured so as to fit over and cover at least a portion of a person's upper or lower teeth;
introducing a quantity of a curable elastomeric material into the mouth guard that
is able to cure by at least one of polymerization or cross linking;
placing the mouth guard over at least a portion of the person's upper or lower
teeth in a manner so that the curable elastomeric material forms an impression of at least
a portion of the person's upper or lower teeth; and
allowing the curable elastomeric material to at least partially cure by at least one
of polymerization or cross linking.
2. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the protective mouth guard
comprises a non-custom mouth guard, a thermally deformable mouth guard, or a custom-fitted
mouth guard.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the protective mouth guard is
a sport mouth guard sized and configured so as to protect a person's teeth during athletic events.

8. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the curable elastomeric material is initially flowable when first introduced into the mouth guard.

9. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the curable elastomeric material comprises at least one silicon-based polymer.

10. (Original) A method as defined in claim 9, wherein the silicon-based polymer comprises at least one polysiloxane.

11. (Original) A method as defined in claim 9, wherein the silicon-based polymer comprises a multi-part composition that is mixed together just prior to introducing it into the protective mouth guard.

12. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, further including removing the mouth guard from the person's mouth after the curable elastomeric material has formed the impression of at least a portion of the person's teeth but before it has fully cured in order for the curable elastomeric material to continue curing outside the person's mouth.

13. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, further comprising applying an adhesive material to the mouth guard prior to introducing the curable elastomeric material therein in order to increase bonding between the mouth guard and the elastomeric material.

14. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the mouth guard is substantially more rigid and durable than the cured elastomeric material.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a protective mouth guard to more precisely fit and provide increased cushioning against a person's teeth, comprising:

providing a custom-fitted protective mouth guard configured so as to cover and fit at least a portion of a person's teeth in a customized manner;

introducing a quantity of a curable elastomeric material into the custom-fitted protective mouth guard;

placing the custom-fitted protective mouth guard over the person's teeth in a manner so that the curable elastomeric material forms an impression of at least a portion of the person's teeth; and

allowing the curable elastomeric material to at least partially cure within the custom-fitted protective mouth guard.

16. (Original) A method as defined in claim 15, wherein the custom-fitted protective mouth guard is formed from a stone cast that is representative of at least a portion of the person's teeth.

17. (Original) A method as defined in claim 15, wherein the curable elastomeric material comprises at least one silicone-based polymer.

18. (Currently Amended) A kit for use in forming a protective mouth guard that more precisely fits and provides increased cushioning against a person's upper or lower teeth, comprising:

at least one of (i) a mouth guard that is substantially U-shaped or L-shaped so as to fit over and cover at least a portion of a person's upper or lower teeth or (ii) a mouth guard precursor comprising a sheet material; and

at least one curable elastomeric material that can be placed by a user into a mouth guard so as to form an impression of at least a portion of the person's teeth and that will at least partially cure by at least one of polymerization or cross linking so as to substantially maintain the impression over time.

19. (Original) A kit as defined in claim 18, wherein the mouth guard precursor comprises at least one sheet material that can be formed into a custom-fitted mouth guard from a stone cast that is representative of at least a portion of the person's teeth.

20. (Original) A kit as defined in claim 18, wherein the curable elastomeric material comprises at least one silicone-based polymer.

21. (New) A method for treating a protective mouth guard to more precisely fit and provide increased cushioning against a person's teeth, comprising:

providing a protective mouth guard configured so as to cover at least a portion of a person's teeth;

applying an adhesive material to the mouth guard;

introducing a quantity of a curable elastomeric material into the mouth guard that is able to cure by at least one of polymerization or cross linking, the adhesive material increasing bond strength between the mouth guard and the elastomeric material;

placing the mouth guard over the person's teeth in a manner so that the curable elastomeric material forms an impression of at least a portion of the person's teeth; and

allowing the curable elastomeric material to at least partially cure by at least one of polymerization or cross linking.

22. (New) A method for treating a protective mouth guard to more precisely fit and provide increased cushioning against a person's teeth, comprising:

providing a protective mouth guard configured so as to cover at least a portion of a person's teeth;

introducing a quantity of a curable polysiloxane material into the mouth guard that is able to cure by at least one of polymerization or cross linking;

placing the mouth guard over the person's teeth in a manner so that the curable polysiloxane material forms an impression of at least a portion of the person's teeth; and

allowing the curable polysiloxane material to at least partially cure by at least one of polymerization or cross linking.

23. (New) A kit for treating for use in forming a protective mouth guard that more precisely fits and provides increased cushioning against a person's teeth, comprising:

at least one mouth guard or mouth guard precursor; and

at least one curable polysiloxane material that can be placed by a user into a mouth guard so as to form an impression of at least a portion of the person's teeth and that will at least partially cure by at least one of polymerization or cross-linking so as to substantially maintain the impression over time.